



# TEXAS TIDBITS

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION, INC

## APRIL IS... NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

Throughout the country, April 12-16, there will be an increased presence by law enforcement, focused on distracted driving.

For those that have an online presence & are interested in recognizing this as a major problem, the MRF has provided materials

including banner ads, infographics, logos, social media, sample op-eds & web videos to help spread the word during the month of April. If you would like more information about what you can do to help spread the "U Drive, U Text, U Pay" Campaign, reach out to your chapter reps.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Skee Dodson, Texas Abate Legislative Officer

**2018 Goals:** Gather facts for 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session; monitor the (non)implementation of SB 754—including Governor's line-item veto for FY'19 motorcycle safety funds (0501 fund account); Looking for a State Rep (congressperson) who will author an Autocycle bill for the 86<sup>th</sup>; Need to increase our ABATE membership (new and renewals)! Noise ordinances are on the back burner, since we spent considerable time analyzing noise levels last year. We tested every motorcycle at our state rally last year (Kirsten's was the loudest). Remember, "when in town, throttle down"!

Motorcycle Safety Facts published by the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) provide 2016 statistics, some more interesting than others: **Most fatalities happen in an urban area, at a non-intersection, on a clear day, during daylight hours!** Isn't that when most of us want to ride? On a country road, with no intersections in sight, on a clear sunny day? These conditions are, by far, the riskiest for bikers! The most staggering fact, for Texas, is **40%** of us died riding our motorcycles-impaired, 33% nationally! Of our fatalities, 33% had a BAC of 0.08, only 25% nationally! Texas ranked 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the country for motorcycle DUI's! As if 40% DUI fatalities (2016) wasn't bad enough for Texas, 2017 is even higher, 44%! We must do a better

job of saving our lives! Nationally, 15% of ALL 2016 fatalities were single-vehicle accidents—and were impaired (worse in TX)! This is a subject all riders need to address, soon!

Only 9 months left in the 115<sup>th</sup> U.S. Legislative

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### STATE:

**-5/5/18** Lake Cities hosts State Meeting  
American Legion, Lake Dallas

**-5/15/18** Bikers Inside the Beltway Sponsored by MRF

### ARLINGTON:

**-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12 noon**

VFW Post 6111  
1200 W Harris Street  
Arlington 76018

**-4/15/18** Bluebonnet Ride

**-5/20/18** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bike Blessing

### DENTON:

**-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2:00 pm**

Mr. Porky's  
8430 W University Drive  
Denton 76207

### LAKE CITIES:

**-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 2:00 pm**

American Legion Post 88  
105 Gotcher Avenue  
Lake Dallas 75065

**-4/28/18** Bikers Building Homes (See Facebook)

### TEXOMA:

**-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 1:00 pm**

American Legion Post 62  
419 W Crawford Street  
Denison 75020

**-4/14/18** Chili Cook-off & Bike Show

**-6/22-6/24/18** Old Fashion Rally

### INDEPENDENTS:

**-4/20-4/22/18** Revival

Cycles: Hand Built

Motorcycle Show 2018

**-5/5/18** International

Female Ride Day

**-6/17/18** East Side Classic

TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION IS A MEMBER OF NCOM

**Motorcycle Accident?**  
HIRE ATTORNEYS WHO RIDE

OVER \$200 MILLION RECOVERED FOR OUR CLIENTS

Law Offices of **RICHARD M. LESTER** *Attorney for Injured Motorcyclists*

- Affiliated Offices To Serve You
- 110 Offices Throughout North America
- No Fee on Motorcycle Damage Recovery
- Free Legal Consultation
- No Recovery - No Fee
- We Make House Calls
- Also Auto Accidents

24 Hours - Toll Free (800) 531-2424  
**(800) ON-A-BIKE**

Call for your new ID card with lost key rider

We are endorsed by the National Coalition of Motorcyclists and more than 1,500 motorcycle groups throughout the United States and Canada, and serve as legal counsel for the Confederation of Clubs.

ATTENTION TEXAS ABATE CONFEDERATION MEMBERS: Our nationwide network of 110 attorneys covers a significant portion of your local bike scene. In motorcycle accident settlements, look for motorcycles to be the sole financial winner of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists.

Call us on the web at [www.rmlester.com](http://www.rmlester.com)

Session, and 9 months before the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session begins (Jan.). Make a point to review the federal motorcycle bills currently before the U.S. Congress. Which ones have the best chance of passing? Which ones need our help the most? I believe the **RPM Act of 2017 (HR 350)** will pass the House—it has already made it out of the committee, and the bill has 144 co-sponsors! The RPM Act has support not only from motorcyclists, but also from other motor vehicle enthusiasts. I believe it will also pass the Senate. The other bills have few co-sponsors, and unfortunately, I don't believe have much chance of making it to the floor for a vote.

**There are two (2) federal resolutions that address motorcycle profiling, and everyone knows how important it is to pass one of them! This is where we need to go to work!** As you know, a simple resolution only need pass one chamber to pass! S. Res. 154 is the Senate version, and only has 5 co-sponsors as of March 26<sup>th</sup>--we should have more! As much as I hate to say it, this resolution has little chance of passing. The House resolution, **HR. 318** has 26 co-sponsors, and a much better chance of making it to the floor. You might remember, during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, the house resolution had about 33 co-sponsors, and it never made it out of committee. We need more than 33 co-sponsors! We need at least twice this many; Michael Burgess is the only co-sponsor from Texas, yet Texas has 150 Reps! Where are the other 149 District Reps? Does your State Rep not know that profiling is going on in his/her district? Perhaps he/she doesn't care--ask 'em! We only have 26 co-sponsors--we have motorcycles in all 50 States! If you have not yet asked your rep to co-sponsor **HR 318**, it's not too late! Go to [MRF.org](http://MRF.org) and take action. Send your Rep an email...and/or call them. Remind them that motorcycle profiling is illegal! Remind your Rep that we will be in DC on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and we look forward to discussing **HR 318** with them!

By all means, do not give up on the other bills of interest to us (autocycles, black box, various E-15 bills, etc.). Pick your favorite one, and contact your Representative (include discussion on **HR 318**). We also oppose HR 1311, which was filed on 2/2/17 and already has 45 co-sponsors! We need to let our representatives know that we **OPPOSE** this bill--to amend the Clean Air Act (with respect to the ethanol waiver for the Reid Vapor Pressure limitations--raising levels from E10 to E15). Do your homework, and let's work on **support** for (US) **HR 318**, and oppose HR 1311.

## INDEPENDENTS INFO

--E, Independent Rep/Board Member

We are seeking to host/co-host the City of Austin proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month. Contact "E" for details. Email [eer17tx@gmail.com](mailto:eer17tx@gmail.com). (See "Upcoming Events" for more info and links)

## DO YOU KNOW...Where to find Texas Abate Confederation State Meeting Minutes???

As required, we must provide you an opportunity to review the minutes from our state meetings. Although some information from these meetings can be found in the newsletter, you are welcome to read the official minutes by clicking [http://texasabate.com/newsletters/newsletter\\_archives.html](http://texasabate.com/newsletters/newsletter_archives.html). Scroll down to "State Meeting Minutes" and click on the date you wish to review. Should you have any questions please contact your chapter or independent representative at the link provided on the [Texas Chapters](#) page of our state website (<http://texasabate.com/>)

## BIKERS INSIDE THE BELTWAY

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) "Michael 'Boz' Kerr 10<sup>th</sup> Annual BIKERS INSIDE THE BELTWAY" is coming up on May 15<sup>th</sup>! This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row that Texas will attend, and it promises to be the biggest and best yet! Last year we were challenged to bring more riders from Texas, everyone is encouraged to attend! Texas bikers need to make appointments with their Reps NOW, even if you're not going to DC; we'll discuss motorcycle bills with your Rep, and we'll represent your district! Heck, if you get an answer from your Rep., tell them you're gonna let someone else set the appointment--and forward the email to me at: [Skee.Dodson@Texasabate.com](mailto:Skee.Dodson@Texasabate.com). I will take it from there...easy, right? I am looking forward to seeing my representative, John Ratcliffe, and discussing HR 318! He is also on the House Homeland Security Committee, which is the committee that will decide if this resolution goes anywhere! We need you to ask for an appointment with your US Congress-member (representative). This year we will not be authorized to "drop-in" on a Representative without an appointment. PLEASE send your Rep. an email--tell them you are their constituent and you would like to visit with him/her on May 15<sup>th</sup>--and that you're bringing your friends (-:D)! The MRF always has good information to leave with them--but first we need an appointment; Please, DC is too far to ride for only a few appointments! Anyone who is interested in riding to DC on May 12<sup>th</sup>, hit me up! Best ride ever (2,800 miles-round-trip/6 days)--and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for BITB too! Remember, our rights come with responsibilities!

Texas Abate Confederation, Inc. is a motorcycle rights organization that is dedicated to freedom of the road for all motorcyclists, promotes rider education for all motorcycle riders, motorcycle awareness for all automobile drivers, and fights discriminatory legislation aimed towards the motorcycling community.

*Dedicated to Freedom of the Road In Hope of Promoting a Better Relationship with the Public for Motorcycle Awareness.*